Senate Aide's Friend Loses FBI Job

By Jack Anderson

The FBI recently transferred a young secretary out of its sensitive Domestic Intelligence ivision because her roommate works for Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) who has criticized J. Edgar Hoover.

The victim is Barbara Hatcher, 24, a pretty, brown-haired girl, who was so upset she quit the FBI with a week's notice.

Her roommate is Sharon Waterman, 26, a demure soft-spoken secretary on McGovern's staff.

The two girls met not at some hippie hangout but at the staid Young Women's Christian Home, a residence for women on Capitol Hill. They liked each other and moved into their own apartment last February.

By April, word of their relationship had reached J. Edgar Hoover who, apparently, looks upon an FBI employee as a security risk if she rooms with the secretary of McGovern.

The FBI chief assigned his sleuths to the case. They discovered triumphantly that Miss Hatcher not only rooms with McGovern's secretary but that their apartment had been visited by a former FBI clerk who was fired for doing peace work in her spare time.

This was considered so damning, apparently, that Miss Hatcher was summoned by her supervisor. He cross-examined her about her roommate and her visit from the fired FBI clerk. Then dramatically, he pulled out an underground newspaper which he claimed had been found in a newspaper box outside the girls' apartment building.

Miss Hatcher, a Louisianan with a lilting Southern sense of humor, could hardly believe what was happening. She confessed to rooming with Sharon Waterman and to knowing the fired girl, Kitty Hoomes. But Barbara denied any acquaintance with the underground paper.

A week later, she was called in again and grilled intensively about her roommate. She repeated the same truthful answers. A few days later, she was abruptly transferred to a statistical section in the Criminal Records Division.

So unexpected was the move that she was shunted into a conference room with makeshift office facilities. Disgusted by her bizarre mistreatment, she quit and is now working for a law firm.

The FBI never returned our calls. Since Hoover declared our columns cause him indigestion, FBI spokesmen have become hard to reach.

Supreme Court Rumor

It has been whispered around Washington that the next Supreme Court appointment will go to Thomas Smithwick Gettys, the rock-ribbed Representative from Rock Hill, S.C.

We tracked down the rumor to a closed session of the House Administration Committee. Gettys was expounding on a legal question when he was interrupted by Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.)

"When my distinguished colleague, Mr. Gettys, goes to the Supreme Court, we can expect a lot of clarification," said Thompson mischievously.

"I hope," agreed Chairman Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), "that is early."

Despite Thompson's gratuitous nomination and Hays's prompt endorsement, Gettys is not likely to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Jekyll and Hyde

Uncle Sam is helping a Louisiana electric co-op with one hand and throttling it with the other.

For years, four big electric companies have tried to put the squeeze on the small co-op. We reported in October, 1969, how Gulf States Utilities, Louisiana Power and Light, Central Louisiana Electric and Southwestern Electric Power had tried in concert to block a $63 million federally-financed plant for the co-op.

The Justice Department has started a civil anti-trust investigation of the four companies. Letters have gone out from Assistant Attorney General Dick McLaren to the four firms, demanding corporate records and warning "your company may be involved in anti-trust violations."

Yet at the same time, the Rural Electrification Administration has refused to give the co-op money already appropriated, which would let the co-op build its own transmission lines. Thus the REA is applying the same pressures that got the four private companies into trouble with the Justice Department.

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